



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO - 301

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration

February 17, 2006

Kathryn Kusske Floyd, Esq.
Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP
1909 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

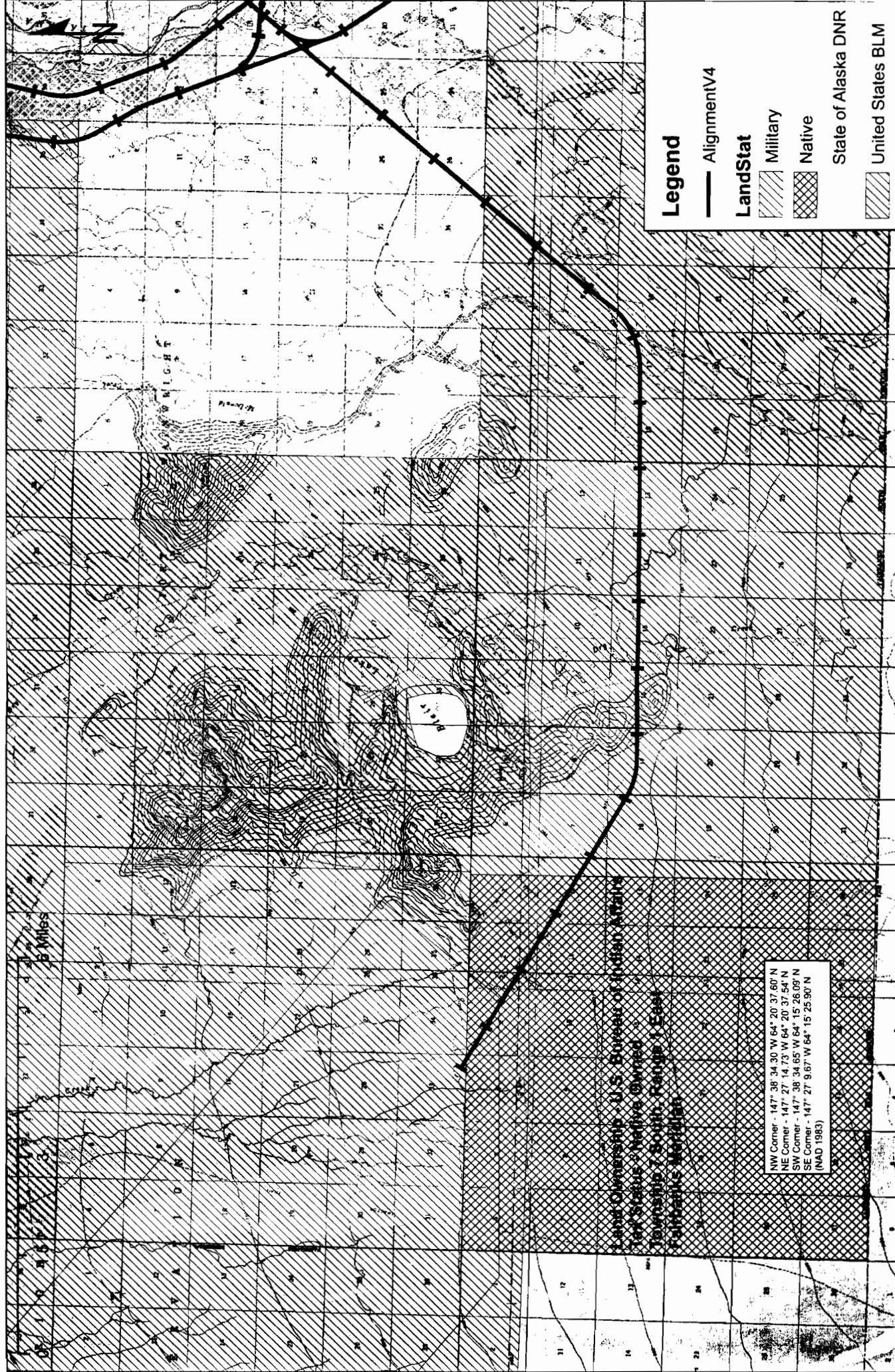
RE: STB Finance Docket No. 34658, Northern Rail Extension Project

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Consistent with 40 CFR 1506.5(a)), we are requesting that you provide additional information to clarify the ownership of Township 7 South, Range 1 East - Fairbanks Meridian. Information on land ownership in the project area was among the data that you provided in response to my request of July 26, 2005 for information needed for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Northern Rail Extension (NRE) Project being prepared by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis. The information that you provided indicates that Township 7 South, Range 1 East - Fairbanks Meridian is "owned" by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) (see attached map).

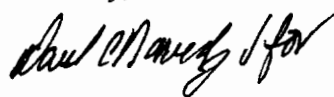
As a first step in identifying a BIA point of contact, our third-party contractor, ICF Consulting, contacted the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A BLM representative indicated that the BLM Master Title Plat shows the North 3/4 of Sections 1-6 are recorded as lands withdrawn for military use, and the remainder of the lands in Township 7 South, Range 1 East - Fairbanks Meridian are recorded as owned by the State of Alaska. We are requesting that you indicate whether you agree with the BLM information on the ownership of Township 7 South, Range 1 East - Fairbanks Meridian and, if not, provide other documentation for the ownership of these lands.

Thank you for your assistance. In addition to Dave Navecky of my staff, please provide a copy of your response to Mr. Alan Summerville of ICF Consulting, at 9300 Lee Highway,



Fairfax, Virginia, 22031. Please feel free to contact me or Dave Navecky at 202-565-1593 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis

Attachment